

## **John Scott-Railton meets Michel Lambert in New York**

**- January 24, 2019, approx. 1:05 p.m.**

**John Scott-Railton** [00:00:17] [exterior noises] [In French] Today, imagine [inaudible] [laughter]

**Waiter** [00:00:51] [In English] How are you? Welcome! He insists you have a martini!

**JSR** [00:00:52] No martini for me, thank you.

**Waiter** [00:00:55] [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:00:55] That's great. I still don't want it. I don't drink.

**Waiter** [00:00:59] You don't drink? [inaudible] sparkling water or tap maybe?

**JSR** [00:01:14] Uh ... You know what, tea would be great. Black tea with milk.

**Waiter** [00:01:14] Black tea with milk?

**JSR** [00:01:14] Um-hm.

**Unidentified speaker** [00:01:24] [inaudible] [laughter]

**Michel Lambert** [00:01:25] [In French] You've found an apartment or not yet ?

**JSR** [00:01:25] Not yet! It's not that easy. And then there are a fair few scammers.

**ML** [00:01:31] Scammers?

**JSR** [00:01:33] Scammers - I don't know how to say it in French - con artists! So I would say maybe 15-20 percent of my time, it's - for example I post something, I get responses that are very interesting, people who're nice, agreeable, and then it's not true.

**ML** [00:01:49] You're looking in Manhattan?

**JSR** [00:01:51] No, no, I'm not at all in Manhattan. I'm in Brooklyn - come on! Manhattan I think it's impossible.

**ML** [00:02:01] It's pretty expensive.

**JSR** [00:02:01] [inaudible] it's half Chinese, half bohemian and it interests me but it doesn't work for the time being.



**ML** [00:02:10] Why do you come here ? There's the sun over there ...

**JSR** [00:02:14] In California ? Well there are two reasons.

**ML** [00:02:17] Work?

**JSR** [00:02:18] Yeah that's it. Because - imagine - in California there are three hours between Toronto and there.

**ML** [00:02:26] [inaudible] perfect French!

**JSR** [00:02:27] Thanks a lot. [laughter]

**ML** [00:02:27] I don't know if that's because you're Canadian?

**JSR** [00:02:33] Ah no, I'm American.

**ML** [00:02:34] You're American?

**JSR** [00:02:34] Absolutely. [inaudible] I trained myself in France. But how, in fact, did you know that I spoke French ?

**ML** [00:02:43] Listen, I'm not bad in English. I learned in [inaudible] some projects but up until then I've always had an agreeable surprise of the kind - do you speak [inaudible]. I work in Francophone Africa, I'll explain it to you in an instant [inaudible] to ask him to meet. [inaudible]

**JSR** [00:03:23] Like that. [crosstalk].

**ML** [00:03:26] Where did you learn French?

**JSR** [00:03:35] In Paris. Is « forme » the right expression? I did my studies in like CE2, PE2, anyways things [crosstalk] not at all, my parents are academics, so there more economic exchanges between France and America. Me I had years in little French schools. [crosstalk] No because you know after I worked in Dakar and elsewhere. [crosstalk] So I did a few sessions, that's it, I did a few sessions of a year or more so if you add the rest it's another year like that, so it's two years, two years and change in any case.

**ML** [00:04:33] [inaudible] that's what you call the 'lil negro.

**JSR** [00:04:33] That's Wolof.

**ML** [00:04:33] That's Wolof, that's 'lil negro.



**JSR** [00:04:33] What is "l'il negro?"

**ML** [00:04:33] L'il negro is French spoken by - pardon the expression - spoken by locals. They have an accent -

**JSR** [00:04:33] I have never heard this expression.

**ML** [00:04:38] It means when someone is speaking French not totally correct, with an accent which is a little, we call it [inaudible] it means in the middle [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:04:51] For me the expression, that expression is pejorative.

**ML** [00:04:57] It isn't pejorative!

**JSR** [00:04:58] If that were in English it would be pejorative I think.

**ML** [00:05:01] I would never have dared ! When you say that someone is talking 'l'il negro, you're saying that someone is talking 'l'il negro so here's to you! [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:05:05] You are French?

**ML** [00:05:12] Yes I'm French, born in Africa.

**JSR** [00:05:17] Oh yes?

**ML** [00:05:17] Born in Morocco.

**JSR** [00:05:19] No kidding.

**ML** [00:05:20] Before independence.

**JSR** [00:05:20] Oh my God.

**ML** [00:05:24] I was born, and at the age of one [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:05:28] And you were where in Morocco?

**ML** [00:05:29] I was born in Fez.

**JSR** [00:05:29] Fez I've never been to. Instead I know -.

**ML** [00:05:31] - Marrakech? Agadir? -



**JSR** [00:05:32] Ouarzazate. But it was a while ago. Listen, I've done, how to say it in French, "le hiking." I've done 'hiking' in Morocco, and hitch hiking.

**ML** [00:05:47] These days it's not so recommended.

**JSR** [00:05:55] It dates back a while. But do you know the current security situation in Morocco?

**ML** [00:06:10] [inaudible]

**JSR** [00:06:11] Ah that's true I've heard, yeah.

**ML** [00:06:16] [inaudible] on the subject of terrorism [inaudible]. No problems with it. It's terrible. It's the kind of thing that happens in Portugal, Paris or in New York. Nothing to do with Morocco. [inaudible] Islamic State, etc. [crosstalk].

**JSR** [00:06:51] That is, that is, how to say it in English? In English we say "phonetic table." [In English] Do you know that expression, phonetic table?

**ML** [00:07:00] Phonetic table?

**JSR** [00:07:00] Phonetic. It's like, where you, when you were young - until you're about 11 or 12, you build up, um, phonemes. [crosstalk]. And as you get older, you lose the ability to learn new language pieces. And it's like maybe 12, à l'âge de 12 ans, something like that, so if you learn a language before 12 - [in French] if you make efforts it works but if you stop using it -.

**ML** [00:07:39] [crosstalk] It's interesting what you say because I lived for two years in Zurich.

**JSR** [00:07:39] In Switzerland?

**ML** [00:07:39] Ah it was, I was here and there. I had a girl. I still have the girl! She is 35 years old [inaudible] She was 7-8 years old. And she didn't want to go to a [inaudible] to go to an international school. She had a British accent [crosstalk] has lost the accent, but up to the age of 15-16, she spoke British. So you see, you're my daughter's age.

**JSR** [00:08:26] I have to find the time to use French, because if I don't think I can get to speaking French but if I begin to think, I have trouble finding the words. I don't know if -

**Waiter** [00:08:40] [crosstalk] [inaudible] [in English] Octopus. Tastes much better than it looks!

**ML** [00:09:04] Do you have [inaudible]?

**Waiter** [00:09:04] Lobster bisque.



**JSR** [00:09:04] Ah, lobster bisque. OK great.

**Waiter** [00:09:12] [inaudible] Bourguignon. Beef Bourguignon.

**ML** [00:09:12] The beef Bourguignon I had yesterday.

**Waiter** [00:09:12] Nice steak [inaudible] I can ask the chef to get the name for you.

**JSR** [00:09:40] [in French] Everything looks delicious. Are you hungry?

**ML** [00:09:40] Yes I ate [inaudible] lobster.

**JSR** [00:09:40] That's not a bad idea.

**ML** [00:10:05] Would you like to split a sole with me?

**ML** [00:10:07] A sole?

**JSR** [00:10:07] The Dover Sole? That looks huge.

**ML** [00:10:10] Um, as you wish.

**JSR** [00:10:15] Sure, but the good sole it's true that - [inaudible] - the salmon, there, that's a decision made. [inaudible]. [Discussing French gender rules] A decision made? Or a decision made? [crosstalk][to waiter] I'll take the salmon. Is the bisque large or in a cup? [crosstalk] [to waiter in English] OK, I'll take the bisque as well.

**Waiter** [00:10:58] Medium-cooked salmon?

**JSR** [00:10:58] [inaudible] cooked?

**Waiter** [00:11:02] Medium-rare.

**ML** [00:11:02] [inaudible] I'll also have the [inaudible].

**Waiter** [00:11:02] Boeuf bourguignon?

**ML** [00:11:08] No. I had it yesterday and it was quite good.

**Waiter** [00:11:23] We also have a cod fish. [inaudible] vegetables. Filet mignon? Lamb? [inaudible] steak? [crosstalk] What kind of temperature? Medium? Medium-rare?



**ML** [00:11:23] Medium. But make it hot please.

**Waiter** [00:11:42] Any mashed potatoes? Broccoli?

**ML** [00:11:42] Broccoli. No, don't make it [inaudible]

**JSR** [00:11:57] [Laughs] Right! [in French] That's really something they like here. Garlic! When I was young my father served broccoli in mayonnaise! [Laughs] Well, he liked it and when you're young you can't refuse. But I can no longer eat that combination [inaudible] with mayonnaise it's not possible.

**ML** [00:12:34] In any case, I owe you a big thanks for taking the time to come see me, it's well-arranged that you're here and not in California, [inaudible] another five hours of travel.

**JSR** [00:12:42] [In English] Really? You wouldn't have preferred to come to California?

**ML** [00:13:01] [inaudible] come to California. I was born in a country with 35 degrees every day of the year. For me it's very strange because in Europe [inaudible] for half of my life, I would have expected [inaudible]

**JSR** [00:13:06] [in French] What can we do with the gray in fact ? The European gray, the gray of Paris in winter ?

**ML** [00:13:19] [inaudible] Autumn is very reasonable. It's true that summer is becoming more and more unbearable, we're not used to [inaudible] the temperature, you have in the morning temperatures of 34 ou 35 degrees [inaudible] not equipped for that, all the houses are made to keep in the heat.

**JSR** [00:13:48] There was a time, it was, it was called, in Paris, the "canicule" [heatwave], no? That killed people in fact!

**ML** [00:13:57] There was a [inaudible] one of the darkest periods in France, it was 2005, when Giscard was in -

**JSR** [00:14:01] It was Giscard in 2005? Giscard was in the 80s, no? 70s? Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, je me souviens! [crosstalk] In the 90s, in the 2000s it was Chirac [crosstalk] In 2005 wasn't it Sarkozy? No! When was Sarkozy? [inaudible]

**Together** [00:14:43] Chirac, Sarkozy, Hollande, Macron!

**ML** [00:14:48] Summer 2005, maybe I'm wrong about the year, there were 15,000 deaths in August. There were people ...



**JSR** [00:14:58] [in French and English] You know, I remember that! I was, I was in college and there was some story about thousands of people dying in France. It's inconceivable.

**ML** [00:15:12] People were coming into the hospitals and who were coming back from vacation all tanned, It was [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:15:22] Well it's interesting to think about places that have - for me, London. Talk about a country that has trouble managing it's temperature! London for me is always too cold or too hot but I never find the happy medium.

**ML** [00:15:37] But you were born in California?

**JSR** [00:15:39] No, not at all. I was born in Michigan.

**ML** [00:15:39] And that's where?

**JSR** [00:15:47] [in French] Mmm well listen it's a state that's shaped 'like so.' I know here in Michigan, in Detroit.

**ML** [00:15:50] Ah, Detroit!

**JSR** [00:15:55] There are lakes around, in Detroit.

**ML** [00:16:00] And that's what we call the American heartland?

**JSR** [00:16:03] In America we call it the Rust Belt, the belt of - 'rust' what is it in French?

**ML** [00:16:07] 'Rust' it's « rouillure. »

**JSR** [00:16:10] The belt of « rouillure »! Because it's the car capital of America. I'm a Rust Belt baby! So why are you here, are you working [crosstalk]-

**ML** [00:16:27] We're a consulting company; I worked several years with Bolloré -

**JSR** [00:16:39] What is Bolloré?

**ML** [00:16:50] Bolloré is a very big industrialist who works in Africa. I was his representative in DRC. I worked with him - well not with him personally - but with his company. Lately you've seen he's been talked about in France, it's Vincent Bolloré. It's not Thierry Bolloré [crosstalk] who has just been named to head the Renault Group, replacing Carlos Gosn.

**JSR** [00:17:31] Who had [crosstalk] in Japan.



**ML** [00:17:51] For a few years already I'm with CPW, I'm working a lot in Francophone countries, which means south of Mauritania - in Mauritania I don't work - there's not really a coast.

**JSR** [00:18:05] Coast?

**ML** [00:18:07] [crosstalk] The coast is from Morocco, [switching to less formal French] you know that in Morocco we do a fair few projects in the agricultural domain. There's good agriculture in Morocco. The problem with Morocco is mainly in the domain of [inaudible] etc. It concerns, there is still lots to do on certain [inaudible]. When in agriculture in Morocco also in fishing, superpose [inaudible] 5,000 kilometres of coastline.

**JSR** [00:18:56] That's huge.

**ML** [00:18:57] I also work in the Ivory Coast, in Conakry, and [inaudible] three Guineas but there is one that -.

**JSR** [00:19:07] Conakry, Bissau and the -.

**ML** [00:19:07] Equatorial. And Gabon. When you've lived in Gabon, Gabon is the equator. And after the [inaudible] it's, it doesn't grow, the population stagnates around 1.7-1.9 million human beings.

**JSR** [00:19:36] That's pretty small. [crosstalk] I don't know much about Gabon, in fact. I could place it on a map.

**ML** [00:19:41] You know pygmies?

**JSR** [00:19:41] Pygmies?

**ML** [00:19:41] They're little [people] that live in the jungle. Very good hunters. [inaudible]. And lately there's been a mini coup d'etat which didn't work because of lieutenant in the republican guard who did [inaudible] the radio. He made a speech [inaudible] [inaudible] the president got the boot since Oct. 3 with [inaudible] half the body paralyzed.

**JSR** [00:20:40] That's not the only African leader convalescing abroad, I think. There's also the Nigerian president, no, he is at a hospital in London?

**ML** [00:20:48] Even he had to do it in London [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:20:58] There are good hospitals in Morocco. [crosstalk] It's me that's going to teach you, surely, Morocco, but they have a medical tradition of the French training, I think.



**ML** [00:21:15] Yes. There's an elite medicine, paid by the head of state [inaudible] plus it's the Moroccan head of state [inaudible] They've had problems there, [inaudible] in which there was virtually nothing to live. I met someone there, one of the brothers of the president, I hope you know the history of Gabon ?

**JSR** [00:21:43] Honestly, I don't know much.

**ML** [00:21:43] Believe me [inaudible] me, I love Africa -

**JSR** [00:21:43] I also like Africa a lot, still. At a certain time, I thought it would be 'ma life,' you see?

**ML** [00:21:59] [inaudible] Mobutu Sese Seko was the president of Zaire. Of DRC.

**JSR** [00:22:14] At the time his Concorde was doing round trips between Paris and his village there.

**ML** [00:22:22] [inaudible]

**JSR** [00:22:26] There's a landing strip for the Concorde of Mobutu. And he took the Concorde between his village and Paris.

**ML** [00:22:33] Was there really the means to [inaudible]? Because the Concorde needs infrastructure there. Are you sure that it arrived to Gbadolite?

**JSR** [00:22:42] Am I really sure? I'm not 100% sure of that because it's a story someone told me.

**ML** [00:22:49] It's a tall tale ["bobard"].

**JSR** [00:22:50] What's this expression, « bobard »?

**ML** [00:22:50] Bobard, means zombie.

**JSR** [00:22:58] So we can say, 'like people are saying,'.

**ML** [00:23:08] Zombies.

**JSR** [00:23:09] [in English] I learned a new French expression which was "raller" [to whine].

**ML** [00:23:09] Raller?

**JSR** [00:23:13] Like 'je ralle, tu ralles,' [crosstalk] It's great.



**ML** [00:23:22] Or « raleur » [whiner]? [laughs].

**JSR** [00:23:23] [in French] Someone who whines. Yes. I learned that recently. [pause] This is very good.

**ML** [00:23:25] [inaudible] Because they have 4800mm of rain per year. They're in second place. The first place is Guinea-Bissau with 5300. [inaudible] but the population [inaudible] not far from there they got oil [inaudible] who does what with the oil?

**JSR** [00:24:21] Oh. It's a bit like that they survive?

**ML** [00:24:25] Yes, it's in the villages, there's no [inaudible] there's no oil. They stay poor. For example, do you know that in Africa there's a food called manioc? And there are several varieties of manioc, and we call this the "fifoin" [sp?] or the fofou and I don't know if you've ever tasted this? It's -

**JSR** [00:25:13] I don't know how to say - in English we say "starch." It's like - a potato has a lot of "starch." It's a white thing that's a little dry. I don't know the French word.

**ML** [00:25:31] [inaudible] But that is not really [inaudible] a country like Cameroon that can [inaudible]. The ton of [inaudible] was around US\$700. And they can make des thousands or millions given that they belong [inaudible] Over there, we see, the problem [inaudible] not for technical reasons but for reasons of [inaudible] and to bring in [inaudible] the flour of the root of the potato.

**JSR** [00:26:43] Oh I didn't know. So in fact it's under the [crosstalk.] Huh.

**ML** [00:26:55] [inaudible] the earth, and the manioc itself. And herbs, with which you make [inaudible] in Congo you call that the teko-teko, the teka-teka. [inaudible]. There's a certain [inaudible] in that plant.

**JSR** [00:27:24] Oh! I think I've heard of that because you have to treat them with a [crosstalk.] Yes, yes. I've heard of this before, at the UN.

**ML** [00:27:38] [inaudible] Gabon [inaudible] do it. I'm talking about things you can do over there with some [inaudible] the things you have over there [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:28:14] I know that experience well.

**ML** [00:28:24] [inaudible] Gabon will surmount the problem. I think what's going to happen unfortunately is that they're going to make joint farms with Cameroon. They want to work, and



when they come to work [inaudible]. It's lamentable that this country that has such [inaudible]. In Africa, 36 percent of GDP comes from agriculture. In Togo, 4 percent.

**JSR** [00:29:12] So it's a country with an agricultural sector that's hasn't been modernized at all, in fact.

**ML** [00:29:12] Nothing! [inaudible] Tabula Rasa. We have to invest in the sector.

**JSR** [00:29:23] And you want to invest in the sector?

**ML** [00:29:24] We already have invested in that domain, or [inaudible] biological.

**JSR** [00:29:30] Biological! Huh.

**ML** [00:29:36] In Europe we see people today who're asking questions about immigration. Why fight against immigration when there are people [drowning] in the sea?

**JSR** [00:29:55] [in English] Oh I see, so the idea is to support local development so that people have fewer reasons to [crosstalk] I think I have heard other - isn't the EU doing investment in Africa for the same reasons? Job creation and - the European Union, aren't they doing programs like this too?

**ML** [00:30:13] It was an idea but now they are not giving even one euro -.

**JSR** [00:30:19] I read a news story about this though, that this was the 'new frontier.' [pause] So your investors - sorry I'm getting ahead of you - so your investors want to invest in [crosstalk] modernization?

**ML** [00:30:41] Oui. Modernization. [inaudible] looking for real solutions going for, taking an airplane and starting photographing [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:31:07] Oh I see. Got it. So basically, it's true, right, if you want to do - when I started my PhD work in Africa, one of the problems was I wanted to get satellite imagery. But it was impossibly expensive. I couldn't justify it, so I sort of went looking for other solutions.

**ML** [00:31:31] You know what the first [inaudible] Then they found money, it's no problem [inaudible] not really a big amount of money. [inaudible] Really solve the problem. [inaudible] I'm not sure we'll be able to solve the problem 100 percent.

**JSR** [00:32:33] Interesting. I like that. So what is the project that you're -- are you building out a project?

**ML** [00:33:01] [inaudible]



**JSR** [00:33:12] Yeah you know, for us we tend to use our mobile devices. But it's rude to have a phone. This I like. [Laughs] It's like a TV presenter, 'ladies and gentlemen!' [laughs]

**ML** [00:33:52] So when were you in Senegal? There are many [inaudible] Senegal you have to accept [inaudible]. [in French] There are elections at the end of the month. The current president will very, very likely be reelected in a [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:34:08] Macky Sall, yeah.

**ML** [00:34:13] Macky Sall [inaudible] compared to other heads of state that I've known - that I know.

**JSR** [00:34:17] You know Macky Sall? What do you think of him?

**ML** [00:34:26] I've had lunch with him!

**JSR** [00:34:26] No! You know - what was he like in person?

**ML** [00:34:39] Someone very [inaudible]. Someone very watchful. You know, each of us [inaudible]. I've known Mobutu, I've known Idi Amin. I was very young but I knew him. I've known - well, I was in a meeting with the president of Chad, and with the president of Madagascar.

**JSR** [00:35:03] I'm impressed.

**ML** [00:35:04] [Inaudible] through police officers. So you asked about Macky Sall, already, he's someone who's very intelligent, contrary to many heads of state [inaudible] notably also Americans that I'm supposed to meet late today. And [inaudible] I also knew [inaudible] in Gabon, it's someone who's very very [inaudible]. I've talked to him, laughed with him, he's someone who's very pious - very pious. He goes to Mecca very regularly, sometimes a religion [inaudible] fast at the rhythm of work.

**JSR** [00:36:06] Fasting it's for Ramadan? How do you call it?

**ML** [00:36:07] Iftar.

**JSR** [00:36:08] Iftar, that's it?

**ML** [00:36:08] The iftar is when you take a meal at the end of a fast. After iftar [inaudible] we do a work meeting for an hour, not even [inaudible.] He's very favorable. [crosstalk] polite stuff. Let's get back to Senegal. [inaudible] other domains [inaudible] but I [inaudible] technological research [inaudible].



**JSR** [00:37:12] I was there a year ago for a conference.

**ML** [00:37:12] You were in the new airport? You landed in the new airport?

**JSR** [00:37:13] With an hour and 45 minutes between the airport and [crosstalk] it's crazy no?

**ML** [00:37:21] And you saw [inaudible] airport? And the highway?

**JSR** [00:37:22] [to waiter][in English] Can I also get a glass of water with no ice?

**ML** [00:37:40] [to waiter] Can I also get a bottle of flat, still water? [to JSR] [inaudible][in French] and the more it [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:37:44] [in English] Yeah because they have this pole idea, the [inaudible] access development.

**ML** [00:37:53] They inaugurated the train. They have the [inaudible] very fast train. [in French] It's going to bring the suburbs closer to the people, you see, the trucks, the buses and everything, 37 km! But the project which is the most interesting as far as we're concerned is that in addition to that effort [inaudible] there's an enormous investment in a rail network. All countries who seem [inaudible] Burkina Faso, the -.

**JSR** [00:38:32] [in English] Oh wow. So this would be to allow them to exit via the port at Thies?

**ML** [00:38:43] It's not Thies.

**JSR** [00:38:43] It couldn't be Thies because Thies is inside but, down by the day-

**ML** [00:38:51] [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:38:52] I don't really know those places.

**ML** [00:38:52] [inaudible] Very good for [inaudible.].

**JSR** [00:38:52] Ah. Wow. That's smart, yeah.

**ML** [00:39:01] So those two ports, one for minerals, the other for merchandise, [in French and English] it's going to be [inaudible] It will allow [inaudible] discovered recently [inaudible]. In the agricultural domain there's plenty of it. There's a whole region of [inaudible] which is a region which is degradation [inaudible] There is no way [inaudible]. And before making an investment [inaudible]. Farm [inaudible] cassava, palm. Palm is for oil. If there's something I love it's sauteed palm.



**JSR** [00:40:00] Yeah, right! Those are so good!

**ML** [00:40:03] The next time I come I'll bring you a bottle.

**JSR** [00:40:03] With pleasure.

**ML** [00:40:06] So all this is to tell you that [inaudible] and an important factor is that Senegal is the only country where [inaudible] problem of [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:40:30] Yeah This unbroken history since independence. I was worried in 2012 during the protests around Wade's transition but it seemed like they managed.

**ML** [00:40:47] They managed very well. [inaudible] In America today we have a president I don't know where he is going. But this political stuff [inaudible] my own opinion. [inaudible]

**JSR** [00:41:36] Haha, good, I'm glad you didn't ask about my politics. [crosstalk].

**Waiter** [00:42:01] A little glass of wine?

**ML** [00:42:01] Not at all?

**JSR** [00:42:01] I have an allergy. I can't.

**ML** [00:42:02] [inaudible] doesn't cost anything -

**ML** [00:42:12] I can't. I won't but you're welcome to. [laughs]. It's the biggest disappointment, when I drink wine I have an allergic reaction.

**ML** [00:42:23] Is that true?

**JSR** [00:42:27] It's what my doctor told me years ago since the age of [inaudible] Have you yourself taken wine?

**ML** [00:42:40] [inaudible] you definitely have some portion sizes [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:42:54] I used to drink wine. It's a little bit mysterious because I often have eruptions like eczema and, finally, what a specialist told me, a dermatologist she told me, listen, I think you have - let's talk about diet - try wine, let's see what happens. After that it was gone.

**ML** [00:43:27] [inaudible] So, this project, [inaudible] after the elections. [inaudible] in the region of [inaudible] I don't know if [inaudible] has been built [inaudible].



**JSR** [00:43:54] I don't think so. I don't know. Was it on the road to the airport? Yes, so I saw it on the right on the road to Dakar. I saw it from a distance.

**ML** [00:44:03] So when I started to study this market, instead of looking for [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:44:30] So how can I help?

**ML** [00:44:30] [inaudible] because I read a quantity of papers that I [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:44:47] They are.

**ML** [00:44:47] Oliver Whitmore -.

**JSR** [00:44:47] Whitmore at al.

**ML** [00:44:47] You know them?

**JSR** [00:44:47] Well, I know the names.

**ML** [00:44:56] [crosstalk]

**JSR** [00:44:56] [in English] So basically [crosstalk] the reason I sent you those papers is that the technology I use is very very similar but with some modifications which makes it even more rugged and field stable. I haven't done this in a few years, but the basic technology is very simple. You have a kite, a big kite.

**ML** [00:45:59] Three meters?

**JSR** [00:45:59] Maybe three square meters. It would be hard for me to say what it is - I think it's 17 square feet, 20 square feet, not as big as the kind of thing that you use for wind surfing or kite skiing, but big, right? With a single line, once you get it up you can put it up to a mile in the air, deux kilomètres quelque chose comme ça. So you're looking at that height. And imagine you want to photograph this, right? You make a basic trigonometry calculation, you put your setup over here, and then as your kite flies up here, your camera lives across this space. And the cool thing is the camera is moving. Which in most aerial platforms is something you want to avoid, you want a stable thing. But part of the technology that I've worked on is you actually use the movement to get three-dimensional images. Have you ever noticed that when you're driving in a car, the trees close to you move very fast and the trees very far away move very slowly?

**ML** [00:46:33] You program all the pictures, what, to three seconds? Five seconds?



**JSR** [00:46:33] Uh, it depends on what you're trying to accomplish. Now you can actually do it with video. You just get a constant stream. So you put like a high-resolution - I have one in here somewhere - you have a high-resolution GoPro.

**ML** [00:47:06] You can video [inaudible]?

**JSR** [00:47:07] You could. It's kind of like the same principle, because stereoscopic you have two objectives, right? And the pictures that they have a slightly different so that's kind of 3D. That's old aerial photography. I don't know how familiar you are with old aerial imagery stuff?

**ML** [00:47:20] I was in the military.

**JSR** [00:47:23] Oh wow OK in France?

**ML** [00:47:29] In my [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:47:29] Did you do imagery analysis?

**ML** [00:47:29] I spent almost a year in [inaudible]. In the [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:47:49] Oh wow. That's a long time ago now.

**ML** [00:47:49] I don't think you were born at that time.

**JSR** [00:47:49] I was born in the early 80s so right around then.

**ML** [00:47:49] How old are you? 35?

**JSR** [00:47:49] 35. You said I was the same age as your son?

**ML** [00:47:49] Daughter.

**JSR** [00:47:49] Daughter, OK. [inaudible] Is that the same daughter who had the British accent? Well, if she's single let me know!

**ML** [00:48:15] [Laughter] She is pregnant with [inaudible]. Another boy and a girl. She had to be [inaudible] Married one-and-a-half [inaudible.] And you?

**JSR** [00:48:35] Not married. Single. And I like the British accent, so [Laughter]. Maybe I should have moved to London, right?

**ML** [00:48:35] No, no, she's not living in London!



**JSR** [00:48:57] Oh no I don't mean for your daughter, I mean generally. [changes subject suddenly] So basically it's like stereoscopy. What you do, because the camera is moving around, you get that parallax effect on the ground, which means you can actually get three dimensions because the things that are close will move a lot, so you get hundreds and hundreds of these photographs through an image processing algorithm and get three-dimensional models. So you don't just get the canvas of pictures.

**ML** [00:49:23] [inaudible] bring the kite [inaudible] pictures?

**JSR** [00:49:31] Oh yeah, yeah, tons. I would say I get maybe 60 square feet. I mean I made a team of graduate students do the actual work. And then I donated all of the equipment that I had gotten through my fellowships to the university there, and I was very proud because it was used in some other doctoral dissertations.

**ML** [00:50:06] Is it applicable to make some tests on a farm [inaudible]?

**JSR** [00:50:06] We've done it. In 2013 I went with the university I was with in Dakar and we did a pilot project mapping some agricultural terrain in the region of, not too far from Tuba. So fairly far inland. The air is lighter there, you don't have as much, but if you use a bigger foil, a bigger kite you could still do it.

**ML** [00:50:49] But if I want to make it on the Senegal River?

**JSR** [00:50:51] Easily done. Easily done. Rivers are also good because it gives you more space to get the kite high up. I've actually done it towed from a boat, where you use a pirogue, hold a kite up, because once you get to a certain altitude it's in air that's always moving, so it stays. The challenge is, when you're inland, getting it up the first 200 meters. So you do a thing where you have one pirogue and another pirogue and they go fast.

**ML** [00:51:20] This is something that we have to check. Do you have any [inaudible] that I can get in touch with to check it? Because you're not anymore with this [inaudible.].

**JSR** [00:51:29] No, but you know, I could always take a leave of absence from work. We'll see if I'm still working in six months, but I could probably take a leave of absence and do a project or help supervise a project if you wanted.

**ML** [00:51:58] This is something we have to discuss of course. As I told you anyway it would have to be done after the election.

**JSR** [00:52:06] I'm going to try to go [inaudible].

**ML** [00:52:07] What are you doing [inaudible]?



**JSR** [00:52:07] So I'm a researcher at a place called the Citizen Lab. [crosstalk] It's called the Citizen Lab. It's University of Toronto. [crosstalk]. Citizen. Like "citoyen." It's like a watch. Same thing. [crosstalk]. Like hacking. Hacking and security. So we investigate, we, we -.

**ML** [00:52:21] You're a hacker?

**JSR** [00:52:21] No. I'm an academic. I would say we're studying hacking. There are some companies that do defense. We don't really do defense or fight hacking. We're more investigative. So we take a problem set like, you know a bunch of people in civil society, in Mexico for example, are getting suspicious text messages. What's going on? Is this some kind of an operation? I love it but it's also super exhausting.

**ML** [00:53:08] I read something [inaudible] there is a subject of -.

**JSR** [00:53:12] Right. So we're running an investigation right now. I don't know if you've heard of this, but we're running an investigation right now, there's some companies that sell hacking tools.

**ML** [00:53:12] Like what?

**JSR** [00:53:25] Like tools for hacking phones for example.

**ML** [00:53:25] It's something people can do!?

**JSR** [00:53:25] Of course.

**ML** [00:53:25] I don't know! I am living in Africa, not in - [laughs]

**JSR** [00:53:36] Yeah but you were in the military, you know these things.

**ML** [00:53:40] When I was in the military I was 20 years old. I'm 62.

**JSR** [00:53:40] You're 62? Well you're living a healthy life.

**ML** [00:53:40] I read something in the newspaper. There is a lot of talk about hacking, fake news, the president, the election etc. This is going together?

**JSR** [00:53:57] Well not really. We do some of that. We do some work on disinformation, that's something I find really interesting, disinformation. This is more, and like - nowhere else but the middle east is there more disinformation - unbelievable how many different people are trying to manipulate news there- but this is more like investigations. So, did a famous journalist receive a text message that was designed to hack their telephone for example?



**ML** [00:54:04] Like the Saudian journalist?

**JSR** [00:54:21] Saudian?

**ML** [00:54:26] There was this subject with the Saudian journalist that was -.

**JSR** [00:54:26] Saudi journalist! Jamal Khashoggi. Yeah, yeah.

**ML** [00:54:46] It was also some issue with hacking.

**JSR** [00:54:47] I don't know that case too well. People have said that about that case, but I haven't investigated that case.

**ML** [00:54:48] But you investigate for what? Who is your client?

**JSR** [00:54:55] I would like to say -.

**ML** [00:54:56] [inaudible] everything by the money.

**JSR** [00:54:58] Yeah. I would like to say that our client is the public. It's a little bit like journalism in that way. We're sort of making investigations that then become public.

**ML** [00:55:21] Ok so you make it public in the media.

**JSR** [00:55:21] That's right, yeah.

**ML** [00:55:25] So you are working [inaudible] media?

**JSR** [00:55:28] Well typically when we do a report we publish it on our website. Right? And I think it's a pretty fun topic so we get a lot of media attention for our work.

**ML** [00:55:34] [inaudible] newspapers?

**JSR** [00:55:38] Oh yeah, if you search my name I think you'll find it in some stories. You'll find my colleagues too. You'll find all of our documents and stuff.

**ML** [00:55:46] And why Citizen's Laboratory?

**JSR** [00:55:46] Well the thinking is - you mean why me, at Citizen Lab?

**ML** [00:55:46] No, you are working there - OK. It's your job, it's your money. If you want to marry my daughter -



**JSR** [00:55:46] Not enough [both laugh]. The academic lifestyle. Anyways so what was your question?

**ML** [00:56:19] No, I was - OK this Laboratory Citizens it is paid by the government of the United States or?

**JSR** [00:56:28] Well, [inaudible] I did enjoy it at the beginning but I've been there for a while. And the lab's funding is - we try to be careful about our funding sources because we know that this is the kind of thing we could be questioned about.

**ML** [00:56:28] Why? It's forbidden to make money from governments to make a living?

**JSR** [00:56:44] I don't know but we don't take government money. We take money from private foundations, typically, so like big foundations like the Macarthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, these are big -.

**ML** [00:56:52] Why not human rights foundations also? Because it's an attempt against the privacy of people!

**JSR** [00:57:06] Yeah, I don't know if we've got any human rights - direct - you know I'd have to look back. There're human rights aspects to what we do but we're still academics. So we do our work. And then it gets talked about often.

**ML** [00:57:42] And you're doing well?

**JSR** [00:57:42] I think our work is pretty good. I mean it's obviously a crazy work environment and everyone is always arguing all the time but it's a pretty good work that we do.

**ML** [00:57:42] What studies you should have made to make those kinds of [inaudible]? Learning computers? [inaudible] For me to turn on the computer, it's a problem. No to turn on is OK, to turn off is difficult [laughs].

**JSR** [00:57:57] Well, then again. Living in Africa you know that you have to fix everything yourself, right? So, system [inaudible] right?

**ML** [00:58:08] You know, in Congo, [inaudible] they said [inaudible] Article 15 it's [inaudible] in the Constitution of Congo which is written there to [inaudible].

**JSR** [00:58:28] [Laughs] That sounds about right. I remember once being in a [inaudible], public transit, in Senegal, and the guy was driving with a stick, you know, and we were going up a hill. And he pulled back and the stick came out his with his hand. Of course the driving is still happening, so he shouts for the boy, who's riding in the back to come in. So as we're driving the boy is trying to stuff the clutch handle back into the transmission and it works!



**ML** [00:59:23] Of course it works. [inaudible] Did you see the movie with DiCaprio? About the blood diamonds?

**JSR** [00:59:23] I think that was a while ago. I did see it yeah.

**ML** [00:59:25] Every time something strange goes on, what can you do? TIA. 'This is Africa.'

**JSR** [00:59:25] That's true. I forgot to put lime on my [inaudible].

**ML** [00:59:29] So you are working against hacking?

**JSR** [00:59:29] You know what it is [crosstalk] As I like to see the work, there's a problem, and the problem is that there's a technology that's very powerful, for like monitoring phones for example, and it has the possibility of being used in ways that are good. Right? Every government has laws. And some governments have good laws and accountability for using this kind of technology. But sometimes those technologies get used in ways that are problematic. So I think I see my work as balancing out the narrative.

**ML** [01:00:03] [inaudible]

**JSR** [01:00:28] You know there are American firms. There's an Italian firm, called Hacking Team. There's an Israeli firm called NSO Group. There's a UK-German firm called Gamma Group.

**ML** [01:00:39] And you're working against all of them?

**JSR** [01:00:39] We're not really working against them.

**ML** [01:00:39] No, no. Not against - this is my way of speaking. You're working to investigate their jobs?

**JSR** [01:00:50] What we're investigating is abuses specifically, so like, you know, is this technology being used in a way that's not [crosstalk.] So we did this big investigation in Mexico which I mentioned earlier and we found that dozens of people in what we would call civil society - journalists, a group that was investigating a mass killing of students, political figures - had all been targeted for hacking using a technology. And we thought this was a pretty good example of an abuse.

**ML** [01:01:31] Who gave that technology to Mexico?

**JSR** [01:01:31] Well we don't know all the pieces, right? So we can do part of that investigation. The technology that we found was called "Pegasus".



**ML** [01:01:43] Pegasus?

**JSR** [01:01:43] Pegasus, like the winged, uh, thing.

**ML** [01:01:43] [inaudible] god [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:01:48] I think it's a cool name.

**ML** [01:01:51] [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:01:52] Well I don't know who sold it to directly to the government but I know that it's manufactured by a group called NSO Group.

**ML** [01:02:02] Ah, NSO [inaudible] NSA?

**JSR** [01:02:02] No, no, no. NSO. Yeah.

**ML** [01:02:23] Maybe [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:02:23] Yeah if you look at the industry, the narrative is that this is a technology for fighting crime and terrorism. I think that it's, you know, it's very legitimate for states to do those activities, to defend their populations, which to me is very natural. The concern is when a technology intended for Thing A is used for Thing B. That's where I have a concern.

**ML** [01:03:04] [inaudible] when I was in Africa because I did it there - thought people need to have an end user certificate if you sell that to a government.

**JSR** [01:03:19] That's right, you do, yeah.

**ML** [01:03:19] You can't sell it to anybody else. A criminal or a -.

**JSR** [01:03:19] - or you're breaking the law right?

**ML** [01:03:36] Ah, OK. So you are looking for who are breaking the law.

**JSR** [01:03:36] No, I'm just saying that if you violate the terms of the end user certificate then somebody's breaking the law, right? Whether it's the seller, or the purchaser, whatever.

**ML** [01:03:36] This is your job? To find who are break the law?

**JSR** [01:03:36] Mmm, my job specifically - I work with a great - you're asking earlier about my skills. I work with this team where everybody has different skills, right? But for me it's like, we



can't investigate everything. What we can investigate are some of the technical pieces, right? The others can then take those pieces and do their own investigations.

**ML** [01:03:49] But why don't [inaudible] I just still need [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:04:40] Ah that's alright. This is a really interesting topic. Obviously I [inaudible].

**ML** [01:04:40] No I think it's very interesting. I am like a [inaudible] in this thing, I don't know nothing!

**JSR** [01:04:40] Mmm.

**ML** [01:04:55] [Laughs] No, I think when there are [inaudible] heightened [inaudible]. If somebody break the law, why not to go to uh, to uh, to uh, uh police, and trial, to uh, uh, try those people on a tribunal?

**JSR** [01:05:09] Mm-hm. You're asking if we work with the police?

**ML** [01:05:09] No the police of the [inaudible] tribunal.

**JSR** [01:05:09] Go to court? Make a lawsuit?

**ML** [01:05:09] The court! Yeah. Why don't you go to the court? It's not [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:05:09] Well you know, with every legal system there's the question of who has standing to bring a court case. So it's been the case that sometimes our work has been used by people who have legal standing. So they will cite our work in cases. But we wouldn't really be in a position to bring a case because we aren't the ones who are harmed. So we can't really -

**ML** [01:05:11] Your organization was harmed by this Pegasus?

**JSR** [01:05:13] No, I'm saying, we wouldn't be the ones to bring a case because we weren't the ones who were harmed. It's not us who was harmed.

**ML** [01:05:30] Ah but you support the people who go to court?

**JSR** [01:05:30] What we do - our philosophy is that we're academics and that our work is fairly transparent and public. And so people can use the work that we do in court cases, right, so our work will be cited in court cases, sometimes.

**ML** [01:05:41] But you must get money for this? It's like a specialist work.

**JSR** [01:05:56] Mm-hm. Yeah, I mean I think that -.



**ML** [01:06:03] [Inaudible] If you're a specialist in agriculture and you say that this guy received so-and-so-and-so but he didn't make what he should do [inaudible] -.

**JSR** [01:06:18] So you're asking me if I get paid to work on court cases?

**ML** [01:06:22] It's obvious, no?

**JSR** [01:06:22] No. No.

**ML** [01:06:36] Why not? [laughs]

**JSR** [01:06:37] Well, well. I think it would be complicated. It's more appropriate for us to do our work with our own very clear and transparent structure of funding than to receive money from -.

**ML** [01:06:40] Is there a lot of people who [inaudible]?

**JSR** [01:06:43] Well, we have a portfolio of different areas of work. One way to look at it is to say, 'Okay, um, it's concerning when a technology intended for Thing A starts being used for Thing B.' And that's a concern because you don't know who the next victim will be.

**ML** [01:06:46] And that story of the Saudian journalist, was not [inaudible]?

**JSR** [01:07:01] What do you mean?

**ML** [01:07:01] [In French] In the story about the Saudi journalist -.

**JSR** [01:07:04] Jamal Khashoggi, yeah.

**ML** [01:07:04] Wasn't there something to do with hacking or the like?

**JSR** [01:07:09] [In English] Well, I know that, uh - [crosstalk] I know that the media said, the media reported statement that it was possible that that was happening. But I haven't looked at the guy's phone so I don't really know.

**ML** [01:07:35] [crosstalk] [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:07:49] You mean the Jamal Khashoggi stuff?

**ML** [01:07:49] [Laughs].

**JSR** [01:07:49] It's sensitive stuff, you know. We just met.



**ML** [01:07:52] You told me that you are working on the security of computers - “securite informatique”! [crosstalk] What’s the relationship [inaudible]?

**JSR** [01:08:06] Almost none! I don't know if you've ever always done the same job. But I did one thing and I really enjoyed it, and then I got interested in another set of things so I started working on those. But I miss the kites.

**ML** [01:08:18] If you enjoy what you are working on, then you are a very happy man. [In French] Because many people aren't living their dreams, what life had promised them. Sometimes you see people, who work in a job that doesn't -.

**JSR** [01:08:39] [In English] To be fair, I am getting a little exhausted in my work.

**ML** [01:08:56] You are what?

**JSR** [01:08:56] I am getting a little exhausted with this work.

**ML** [01:08:56] Really?

**JSR** [01:08:56] Yeah, there's a lot of conflict.

**ML** [01:08:56] No, it is a good thing, I told you - [in French] me personally, I think that if something pushes [inaudible] I remember [inaudible] harm to anybody, I remember [inaudible] society, these big human rights groups that work throughout the world, they're measuring the poverty line in such-and-such a country, how many political prisoners there are in Congo, what is [inaudible]. It's true, if you take Maslow's pyramid, you know it ?

**JSR** [01:09:35] [in English] Maslow's hierarchy of human needs.

**ML** [01:09:36] [In French] You know this.

**JSR** [01:09:41] [In English] The staircase of like, food, shelter -.

**ML** [01:09:45] [In French] When human rights groups are interested in whether people have enough to live or whether their liberty is preserved, that's good. It's good for the bottom rung of the ladder. But if you speak about human rights, the right to a private life. If someone breaks into my phone they can see stuff from my professional history that can damage me. They're also going to see my [inaudible] They're going to see my private life. [inaudible] That should certainly interest all those human rights groups.

**JSR** [01:10:41] [In English] I think they're very concerned about those issues, for sure, yeah.

**ML** [01:10:42] But you're not working with them?



**JSR** [01:10:42] Well sometimes we'll do reports or we'll present at their conferences. In the past sometimes we've - but I think that in a sense it's a big ecosystem and we kind of have our place in that ecosystem.

**ML** [01:10:42] [In mix of English and French] I think that it would be what [inaudible] interesting [inaudible.] And the Declaration of Human Rights did not speak of computers and cell phones.

**JSR** [01:11:22] Well, you know, everything's out of date, right? [Laughter]

**ML** [01:11:32] It's very interesting.[Changes subject] So how do we go forward with our business plan?

**JSR** [01:11:36] Well you tell me. [crosstalk].

**ML** [01:11:40] Let me give you a bit more data - or a little question beforehand: Because in the domain of photography have you ever - are you in a rush [inaudible]?

**JSR** [01:12:01] Well, listen. I'm waiting for a call from my realtor, so we'll see. So if I get a call, I get a call. But other than that [inaudible]

**ML** [01:12:04] [inaudible] an apartment?

**JSR** [01:12:12] Listen I went to see something yesterday. It didn't happen. And today I figured that, given the rain, he can't.

**ML** [01:12:21] What are you looking for in terms of apartment?

**JSR** [01:12:23] One bedroom.

**ML** [01:12:23] One bedroom?

**JSR** [01:12:23] One bedroom.

**ML** [01:12:28] And a [inaudible] kitchen?

**JSR** [01:12:29] Yeah and then a little area for me to have my study, so. It's just a little bit different but it's harder to find exactly that. What I want to find is a place that has a little nook for me to have a study space. So like my bedroom, a living room, a little [inaudible].

**ML** [01:12:44] [crosstalk] No, because I have some contacts. In case I have something, I can try to reach you?



**JSR** [01:12:44] Do you know anyone who's very good and who's honest in real estate in New York? Like, a realtor? Because that would really help. Somebody who [crosstalk] Oh sorry. Do you know anyone who - Do you know anyone who works in this field in New York and who is honest? Because as far as I'm concerned the worry is that the reputations [crosstalk] I am -.

**ML** [01:13:14] I certainly know someone who knows someone -.

**JSR** [01:13:20] Oh that would be helpful. [crosstalk]

**ML** [01:13:24] I know it's very tough.

**JSR** [01:13:24] And it's expensive and it's stressful

**ML** [01:13:29] [In French] You have a budget?

**JSR** [01:13:29] Yeah, and I've already realized that the budget, that I don't have enough -.

**ML** [01:13:35] And there are fees also, and heating and -.

**JSR** [01:13:41] [In French and English] And I also underestimated - you now I used some websites at the beginning to find the averages, but the problem is that it's a weird time of year. So I thought it would be good but it's actually not perfect, but anyways, I need money! [crosstalk] If you can find a job for me, let me know! [crosstalk].

**ML** [01:14:18] [In English] Why? Citizen Laboratory doesn't pay [inaudible]?

**JSR** [01:14:18] Yeah.

**ML** [01:14:18] Because they don't get money.

**JSR** [01:14:18] It's poor academics, right? You know? Maybe I should have stayed taking photographs.

**ML** [01:14:18] [Inaudible][in French] on the analysis of photos. Have you worked in Senegal with a company that [inaudible]? Because me, the last time I saw photos was 40 years ago.

**JSR** [01:14:27] [In English] I trained some graduate students to do it. And worked with some graduate students who already had some training. And they later went into the ministries or NGOs. So there are people there that have that capacity I am sure.

**ML** [01:14:49] The main issue is irrigation?



**JSR** [01:14:49] I was working on flooding, that's the main issue I was working on. Flooding. "Les inondations. L'irrigation, l'inondation." But I think irrigation is another one They're also interested in forest cover and mangrove swamp changes, stuff like that. So there are lots of different, kind of, directions

**ML** [01:15:15] [In French] That's very interesting. You know that there are still other problems I have to overcome. I don't know if it interests you but [inaudible] still. The use of [inaudible] is almost [inaudible]. If in Asia you use 100 kilos per hectare, here we're going to use barely [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:15:30] [In English] Is that because of, um, pesticides as well? What's the reason for that -.

**ML** [01:15:30] Pesticides and something else. They almost don't use it. They use eight or 10 kilos.

**JSR** [01:15:46] Here or there?

**ML** [01:15:46] In Africa. In general. By comparison, in Asia, [inaudible] one hectare.

**JSR** [01:16:00] Interesting.

**ML** [01:16:06] [In French and English] And the quality of the grains is terrible. [Inaudible] The quality of the Thies plateau that you have known, from 2012, when did you do work over there?

**JSR** [01:16:25] Lastly, the point was 2013. Beginning of 2013.

**ML** [01:16:30] It is in decline. [crosstalk]

**JSR** [01:16:31] Decline, yeah.

**ML** [01:16:33] It's getting worse and worse. [Inaudible] your study, to see what we can [inaudible] I don't know, 100 million euros.

**JSR** [01:16:50] One hundred million! That's real money.

**ML** [01:16:57] Yeah it's real money, but all Africa, not only Senegal.

**JSR** [01:16:57] How big is the organization?

**ML** [01:16:57] No, no, we are dealing with 4 billion euros for all our investments.

**JSR** [01:16:57] That's HUGE.



**ML** [01:16:57] That's not our money. That's not our money. But we are dealing with 4 million - 4 billion euros. So a little more than 100 [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:17:17] No wonder you can serve me such a nice lunch.

**ML** [01:17:28] [inaudible] not because I have 4 billion but because I don't have 4 billion! [Laughter] Because [inaudible][crosstalk] secret, I am a cigar lover. I never smoked cigar until my life [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:17:37] Really?

**ML** [01:17:37] But till the age of 31, I was religious. Now I'm not religious and I smoke a cigar a day.

**JSR** [01:17:56] What do you like in terms of cigars?

**ML** [01:17:59] Many. My favorites are the "Punch" from Punch. [Inaudible] And at 6th and there, not to pass by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> street [inaudible] for cigars. So I tell you [inaudible] [Laughs].

**JSR** [01:18:21] [Inaudible] and find some opportunities there.

**ML** [01:18:22] Life is short, it's - life is very short. So let's return to the plateau of Thies. I would like [inaudible] the coverage [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:18:35] [To waiter] Yes, it was great. It was good, yeah. [inaudible].

**Waiter** [01:18:35] Crème brûlée.

**JSR** [01:18:35] Oooh that sounds good.

**Waiter** [01:18:35] [inaudible]

**JSR** [01:18:53] I could have the crème brûlée.

**Waiter** [01:19:02] [inaudible][crosstalk].

**JSR** [01:19:02] Um, I just think I'll stick to the crème brûlée for now. [To Michel Lambert] The cigars are amazing.

**ML** [01:19:05] So maybe smoke a cigar ? [crosstalk] So let's go [inaudible] This is a very interesting subject. And now, let's return to [inaudible] you said that you left your material at the university ? Any chance it might still be there?



**JSR** [01:19:29] Yes but it can be bought, that's the thing, it's not at all expensive. We're talking 5,000 maximum. It's peanuts.

**ML** [01:19:34] It's really peanuts. Are there people on the ground? Because among other things there's the possibility of offering people jobs. Is there anyone there you know?

**JSR** [01:19:52] Yeah there are definitely people who are good. I could check to see who's available. I think most of them already are working -- they're already working for NGOs. Like the UN. Because people with that level of competence are not just going to stay there with nothing to do because there's such a need and such a demand.

**ML** [01:20:15] Are these qualified people, are they serious people?

**JSR** [01:20:21] Mm-hmm.

**ML** [01:20:24] I'm going to pass [inaudible] and what intrigues me a lot if that these irrigation systems, we're in contact with another Israeli company which - the Israelis are very good in the agricultural sector.

**JSR** [01:20:43] Interesting. I don't know that. That's interesting. I thought the big players were -.

**ML** [01:20:43] [inaudible] Israel. [inaudible].

**jSR** [01:20:43] Of course [crosstalk] They made the desert bloom, or whatever it is.

**ML** [01:21:10] We are in contact with experts from Israel to create a system of irrigation - I don't know - not even plant a flower, but all the procedure and the investment is my job. They have advanced technology. [inaudible] that Israeli company.

**JSR** [01:21:25] Oh they're incredibly developed, yeah.

**ML** [01:21:31] And they do it for good, it's not like in your field, with rather negative intentions.

**JSR** [01:21:43] [In English] I mean I don't know what the intention of the developers of that technology. I have to believe that they did it because they wanted to help people. I mean, but you know -.

**ML** [01:21:46] So, that's what makes you feel not so good in your job? Or what? What you said, a conflict of interest?

**JSR** [01:22:03] There's work drama.



**ML** [01:22:09] [Laughs] Work drama? Tell me! I like drama! We are here on Broadway, so -.

**JSR** [01:22:09] Are we on - is this Broadway?

**ML** [01:22:09] No, it's not Broadway.

**JSR** [01:22:09] Oh. OK. [Laughter] Well, you know, lot of smart people, hard to make it all work.

**ML** [01:22:21] Is there a big competition between the people inside Citizen Lab?

**JSR** [01:22:31] Well, let's just say I would like new opportunities [inaudible].

**ML** [01:22:31] Not because of something you don't believe in? [inaudible] happened? Or something else?

**JSR** [01:22:43] I don't want to talk about it too much.

**ML** [01:22:44] Sorry?

**JSR** [01:22:44] I don't want to talk about it.

**ML** [01:22:44] You don't want to talk about it. I respect it. I told you, if you are working in a job you like [inaudible][in French] it's fantastic. The number of people I've seen who're unhappy with jobs at which they earn a lot of money.

**JSR** [01:23:07] [To waiter] Oh wow. That's beautiful. Thank you.

**Waiter** [01:23:09] Grappa or cognac with your special?

**ML** [01:23:10] No, we'll have the grappa in the cigar shop.

**Waiter** [01:23:10] OK. We'll make a special for you.

**JSR** [01:23:22] [Inaudible] the grappa. Grappa is fascinating. I was always -.

**ML** [01:23:27] You want a grappa?

**JSR** [01:23:27] No. I might taste yours.

**ML** [01:23:27] We'll have it on the cigar shop.

**JSR** [01:23:27] [Laughs] Let's see, do we have time? I don't know. I don't know if I have time to go to a cigar shop.



**ML** [01:23:27] It's an hour.

**JSR** [01:23:45] I don't know. Yeah. It's two-thirty and I don't have time -.

**ML** [01:23:45] [To waiter] I'll have a grappa with the [inaudible].

**Waiter** [01:23:45] Coffee?

**JSR** [01:23:45] He ordered an espresso and also can he have a grappa as well?

**Waiter** [01:23:45] OK one espresso and grappa.

**JSR** [01:23:45] He already ordered the grappa - [correcting himself] he already ordered the espresso so just add a grappa. Look at this beautiful, uh -.

**ML** [01:23:45] It's very nice.

**JSR** [01:24:18] When I was a child I found it very fascinating because the fire is just so cool.

**ML** [01:24:18] Donc notre but pour résumer le tout c'est de faire un projet qui va améliorer la technologie qu'on va [inaudible]. C'est un projet assez important. [To waiter] I'll have the grappa.

**Waiter** [01:24:50] Grappa is good it has no cocaine!

**JSR** [01:24:50] [Laughs] [inaudible] That would be great, yeah.

**ML** [01:25:03] [In French] The goal would be to, over there, make [inaudible] manioc. I don't know how it's going to work on the ground. Before that, before starting, to see if we're not going to be [inaudible] with a field - the earth is losing its quality. It's fertile, it's not [inaudible] enough. Even tilling it must be like cutting into a stone. [Inaudible].

**JSR** [01:25:42] [In English and French] I can confirm that there's definitely opportunity.

**ML** [01:25:42] If you quit your job, I would invite you to Dakar.

**JSR** [01:25:42] With pleasure.

**ML** [01:25:58] Let's see what more we have here? [Extended pause] And Citizen Lab, they're in Toronto?

**JSR** [01:26:15] Mm-hmm. Yeah.



**ML** [01:26:15] Oh yeah?

**JSR** [01:26:31] Mm-hm. At the University of Toronto.

**ML** [01:26:34] It's something important?

**JSR** [01:26:37] Important, you mean how big is it? Or ..?

**ML** [01:26:38] You know the University of Toronto it is a kind of faculty or ..?

**JSR** [01:26:38] It's a kind of center - Bon appétit.

**ML** [01:27:01] [Grappa arrives] Now I can drink!

**JSR** [01:27:02] [Crosstalk] so good. [crosstalk] Let me see. Yeah that's a really good grappa!

**ML** [01:27:02] Take it, take it, I insist!

**JSR** [01:27:02] That's good. It's light, it's not too strong.

**ML** [01:27:02] [Inaudible]?

**JSR** [01:27:02] No.

**ML** [01:27:02] Why not?

**JSR** [01:27:02] I don't like to drink too much. It's good. [Pause] So we're like a center at the University. So our director is a professor and our center is within the university building. It's a big university. Toronto is massive.

**ML** [01:27:56] I was in Toronto I think a year ago. The weather was nice. Nothing like [inaudible] Summer is [inaudible].

**ML** [01:28:21] [Inaudible].

**JSR** [01:28:21] Based in Paris? Mm. So when I'm in Paris I like to stay in the 4th and the 5th. The 4th and 5th are my favorite spots.

**ML** [01:28:34] The arrondissements?

**JSR** [01:28:34] Mm-hm.

**ML** [01:28:34] [inaudible] the 11th.



**JSR** [01:28:34] Where's the 11th? I know where the 12<sup>th</sup> is.

**ML** [01:28:43] You know it [inaudible].

**JSR** [01:28:43] So the 12th is Gare de Lyon, so 11 is above that?

**ML** [01:28:53] It's [inaudible] Bastille.

**JSR** [01:28:54] Got it. When I was a kid, the first -

**ML** [01:29:07] I personally lived in the 17th.

**JSR** [01:29:07] That's chic !

**ML** [01:29:07] Ah no, half-and-half.

**JSR** [01:29:10] Oh really?

**ML** [01:29:16] [inaudible] Port de Clichy and Port de la Chapelle [inaudible] You know all the north of Paris, [inaudible] 18th, 19th, 20th, except the small quartier, the small streets where young people come back to live in Paris and habitation is still affordable it is quite difficult to live. At the corner [inaudible] the only neighborhood in the world where Arab people and Jewish people live together like brothers.

**JSR** [01:29:46] That's beautiful.

**ML** [01:29:46] But it was in the past.

**JSR** [01:29:46] That's a shame.

**ML** [01:30:15] In terms of problems of integration, and in terms of a lot of Arabs arrived from those countries illegally and there was no place to put them inside and they start pushing the others away. And a lot of Jewish people who were born in France start to not good so they left and the only ones who stayed there were old people. There is a very good book of a journalist, a French journalist Eric Zemmour -.

**JSR** [01:31:00] I don't know who that is.

**ML** [01:31:00] He write a book about those neighborhoods[Inaudible] "Mon Frere," ["My Brother"] something like that, speaking about two children who grew up together and one is Arab, one is Jewish, and the Arab was caught many times for trafficking drugs, etc, etc, and when he was in jail and when he was in jail he got contacted by Islamists - it's a story, fiction of



course, but based on the reality we live now in France. And when he come back to his neighborhood, he killed the guy with whom he grew up, because of the prison -.

**JSR** [01:31:50] That's horrible.

**ML** [01:31:50] - he had to kill Jewish, etc, etc. So a lot of [inaudible] which are Jewish, mainly from North Africa, which are very afraid to stay in France today because of anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism -

**JSR** [01:31:50] That's a shame.

**ML** [01:31:50] - which translates to a kind of new anti-Semitism.

**JSR** [01:31:50] What a pernicious thing.

**ML** [01:32:25] And you see [inaudible] there is any kind of connection with your analysts, this Mexican and UAE, there is not also a racist connection, no?

**JSR** [01:32:25] A racist connection between our work and Mexico?

**ML** [01:32:25] No not between your work. They don't use the racist element also in the campaign against those kinds of products?

**JSR** [01:32:25] Who would be using that racist element?

**ML** [01:32:25] You said that it was journalists in Mexico, etc,etc.

**JSR** [01:33:21] Well that would be very upsetting - if it were happening. Yeah.

**ML** [01:33:39] Anyway Paris today was not the place you knew when you were in [inaudible]. Where did you live? In the 4th?

**JSR** [01:33:39] The Fifth.

**ML** [01:33:42] Near Pantheon?

**JSR** [01:33:42] Jussieux.

**ML** [01:33:42] Jussieux. So because of your parents -your parents are academics. In what field?

**JSR** [01:33:42] So my father is a professor of philosophy and my mother is a historian.

**ML** [01:33:42] French speaker? Historian of what period?



**JSR** [01:33:42] My mother is a historian of slavery.

**ML** [01:33:42] Slavery!

**JSR** [01:33:59] Yeah.

**ML** [01:34:00] She visit you in Dakar?

**JSR** [01:34:00] I think so. At least once.

**ML** [01:34:02] Did you visit Ile de Gore?

**JSR** [01:34:02] Yes.

**ML** [01:34:05] It was impressive.

**JSR** [01:34:05] It was . Very moving place.

**ML** [01:34:13] I was there many times. And one thing which caught my eye - the "jumelage," [in French] how do you say "jumelage?" [In English] Twin, twin cities. There is a twin city between Ile de Gore and Drancy.

**JSR** [01:34:40] Drancy was where the Vélodrome d'hiver was, right?

**ML** [01:34:43] No, the Velodrome d'hiver was in the 15 -.

**JSR** [01:34:43] Why do I know about Drancy?

**ML** [01:34:43] Because the big center of the gathering the Jewish, on the Second World War, was in Drancy.

**JSR** [01:34:53] That is such a shameful, such a shameful period of history.

**ML** [01:34:53] Vel d'hiv was on the 15th arrondissement, near the Tour Eiffel, by the way. Metro Bir Hakeim. And this jumelage was done with the thought of, in this place -in those two places, people were gathered together to send them to their deaths.

**JSR** [01:35:09] [Sighs] It's such a horrible period of history. And a black - really a black spot in history.

**ML** [01:35:17] So your mother is a professor in history of slavery?



**JSR** [01:35:17] Yeah.

**ML** [01:35:17] Nice.

**JSR** [01:35:17] You know, it's funny, I didn't learn until I was an adolescent about, really, the history of what was done to the Jewish people, specifically in France during the occupation in Vichy and it's horrible. C'est vraiment ...

**ML** [01:35:57] [In English and French] Didn't you have friends in Michigan in the Jewish community?

**JSR** [01:36:02] Oh yes, yes, I knew the story in outline but it wasn't until I'd been to France that I learned how - because you know it's like, you don't really realize - because when you're living in the US, a lot of the world's history is conceptual. You don't have places, right? And then you go to Europe and you see the places where it happened. And it's just - Oh My God.

**ML** [01:36:31] How many year have you been there in total?

**JSR** [01:36:31] In France? Two years. Two-and-a-half years.

**ML** [01:36:31] And you have good memory?

**JSR** [01:36:31] Yeah.

**ML** [01:36:31] In which year it was?

**JSR** [01:36:31] So this would have been in the nineties. 93? 94? So that was an earlier time.

**ML** [01:36:47] And your school was a normal French school? Or [crosstalk] an American school?

**JSR** [01:36:48] No, this was a normal French school. This was the thing, it was purely a normal - sorry I'm just getting a message. [Pause] Just a second. Or not. OK. Yeah these are all - they're scams, they're scams, they're scams. Like I've got this guy who's - look at this [showing the phone to Michel Lambert] 'What are you offering?' Be available. 'Good morning, are you still looking for a house to rent? Me: What are you offering?' [Movement noises.][Laughter] Let's be serious, these are all scams. They're scams.

**ML** [01:37:54] Maybe it's hackers! [Laughs] Be careful!

**JSR** [01:38:02] It's possible, yeah.

**ML** [01:38:02] You wouldn't by any chance have a copy of your study ?



**JSR** [01:38:05] No. But I can send it to you. I almost did, but then I ran out of time. I was like, I'm going to go to a copy shop, I'm going to print it out, but -

**ML** [01:38:10] Take your time, take your time. I have time.

**JSR** [01:38:11] It's called, 'Du vent et des cordes, les cerfs volants pour cartographier le Senegal.' So it's in a bad French that I co-wrote, but then the original is in English. [Laughter]

**ML** [01:38:26] How do you say it?

**JSR** [01:38:27] 'Du vent et des cordes pour cartographier le Sénégal.'

**ML** [01:38:32] Wind and strings?

**JSR** [01:38:33] Yeah like wind and strings.

**ML** [01:38:49] [pause] Vous avez encore des photos pour voir la différence entre 2013 et maintenant?.

**JSR** [01:38:51] Yeah and what's interesting is that you look out here, right, and you think, 'How do you even use a kite out in this?' And the answer is it's still possible when you get on rooftops. If you get on the rooftops. So I've done studies in Dakar where I've gone on the tops of roofs of buildings and then managed to launch on a rooftop that would be three meters, maybe.

**ML** [01:39:12] It was enough?

**JSR** [01:39:12] You could only launch from one place because of the aerodynamics of it but yeah, it was just enough.

**ML** [01:39:12] Who paid for this study?

**JSR** [01:39:12] I got fellowships from my university at the time, UCLA.

**ML** [01:39:12] UCLA?

**JSR** [01:39:12] And then I applied to some other fellowships that were like, for graduate students anywhere.

**ML** [01:39:46] I see. So you were five people working on it?



**JSR** [01:39:46] So I did my own. It was my work and then I hired some Senegalese graduate students to do the work. So I was like the primary person -. [crosstalk as Raphael Satter arrives.]

**Raphael Satter** [01:40:17] Hi, nice to meet you.

**ML** [01:40:17] Bonjour.

**RS** [01:40:17] Hi. My name is Raphael Satter. I'm with The Associated Press, in London. Um, I'd like to speak to you about your company, CPW-Consulting.

**ML** [01:40:47] I don't have to speak with you.

**RS** [01:40:47] Excuse me?

**ML** [01:40:47] I don't have to speak with you.

**RS** [01:40:47] Actually I think you'll want to, because my colleague was [inaudible] your [inaudible].

**ML** [01:40:47] I know what I'm doing. [Noises increase as Michel Lambert gets up to leave.]